

New Trial Denied In Realtor's Suit For Commission

Two Brokers Entitled
To Fees, Judge
Knight Rules

A Merion couple whose property was sold by two real estate brokers and could, naturally, be delivered to only one buyer, face the prospect of paying a double commission on the sale.

That was revealed last Thursday in an opinion handed down by Judge Harold G. Knight in the suit of E. A. Clarke, Merion real estate broker, against W. Burton Piersol and his wife, Marie L. Piersol, of Merion.

The couple owned property at 503 Rockwood Rd., and last January Mrs. Piersol called up 14 real estate brokers and placed it in their hands for sale.

"In an active and booming sellers' market, the result was what could well be expected," Judge Knight commented in his opinion. "Real estate brokers and their prospects descended upon the property—to use Mrs. Piersol's words—in droves."

John Clarke, a salesman for his father, presented a prospective purchaser. But the property was sold to another buyer through another agent, and E. A. Clarke brought suit for his commission of \$925. A jury gave a verdict for \$962, and appeals were made for a new trial.

In refusing the motion for a new trial, Judge Knight said: "We sympathize with these defendants, but the trouble seems to be that Mrs. Piersol was dealing with one broker and his buyers, while her husband was dealing with a different broker and his buyers, and both brokers were entitled to a commission."

Services Held For War Hero

Pfc. Archer A. Miller
Died at 31 in France

Funeral services for Pfc. Archer A. Miller, of 3 Maple Ave., West Manayunk, who died in action in France September 13, 1944, were held Saturday afternoon from the Steward Funeral Home, Ardmore. He was 31 at the time of his death.

Born and raised in Gladwyne, Pfc. Miller was a graduate of the Gladwyne Grammar School and the Lower Merion Junior and Senior high schools. He entered the army in March, 1942.

Son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Archer Miller, he is survived by three brothers, Lieutenant Robert Miller, of the Lower Merion Township Police, with whom he made his home, and Thomas and Edward, both of Philadelphia; and four sisters, Mrs. John B. Law, of Valley Forge, and Mrs. Elmer Hansen, Mrs. Alice McQuiston and Mrs. Preston Algen, all of Gladwyne.

Burial was in Westminster Cemetery.

Smith to Head Merion Civic

Name Board Officers
For Sessions in '49

J. Maxwell Smith, of 351 Woodley Rd., Merion, was named to a second term as president of the Merion Civic Association at a meeting of the executive session last week.

Named to serve with Smith for the 1949 session were Allen B. Coffman, Ralph F. Moss and Greville Haslam, vice presidents; Ralph G. Luff, treasurer, and Mrs. R. H. Wilkinson, secretary. Dr. Frederick A. Bothe, a director of the Association, will serve as medical advisor to the board.

The Association has announced that it has set aside \$500 to be used in financing the installation of a new heating system at the Merion Tribute House.

BOLTON ESTATE

Personal property in the estate of Thaddeus L. Bolton, Wayne Ave., Narberth, has been appraised in value of \$1,014.50, according to an inventory submitted to the Register for Wills office, in Norristown.

Christmas Party Knox Home



—Photo by James Addison, Staff Photographer
Mrs. Anna Sutton Myers, director of the Charles C. Knox Home, 718 Sussex Rd., Wynnewood, presides at the Ardmore Rotary Club's annual Christmas luncheon for guests of the Home, held last Tuesday. At her right is James P. Owens, president of the club, and at her left Evan James, who headed the club's committee in charge of the party. After luncheon, James acted as Santa Claus—eschewing costume—and distributed gifts to the guests. The afternoon's program also included carol singing and a performance by a magician.

Manayunk Man Awaits Rescue In Greenland

Sgt. Summers, With Nine Others, Stranded on Icecap in Greenland

No word from the West Manayunk soldier missing with eight other U. S. airmen in Greenland had been received this week by his family here.

The soldier, Sgt. Francis Summers, 32, who lives with his sister, Mrs. Mary Rausher, 156 Pencoyd Ave., was reported Saturday to be awaiting rescue on a bleak icecap after their C-47 plane made a forced landing on December 9. Originally seven men were missing. Two other fliers from the 2152nd Air-Rescue Group of the Military Air Transport Service became stranded while attempting a rescue, and made a forced landing on the same icecap.

MATS authorities at Fort Pepper, St. John's, Newfoundland, said a glider pickup maneuver failed Saturday when the craft got 50 feet in the air and the tow rope broke. None of the crew aboard the glider were injured, they reported.

Sgt. Summers was born in West Manayunk and joined the Army two weeks before the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. He remained in the Army until a year after the war was over.

Last January he re-enlisted and returned to his former job as a radio operator.

His brother, Anthony, who lives at 151 School Lane, West Manayunk, received a letter from Francis dated Nov. 18, in which the sergeant reported that he was "playing around with B-17s, C-47s and C-54s in the air."

He said his flying duties took him on frequent missions over Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, Labrador and Canada.

During the war he served on a C-47 with the Troop Transport Command.

Summers also has another brother, Joseph, living in Manayunk and another sister, Mrs. Theresa Fahrback, in West Manayunk.

Telephone Executive to Address ML Realtors

Herbert J. Bruder, District Manager of the Bell Telephone Co., Ardmore, will address the weekly luncheon meeting Tuesday of the Main Line Board of Realtors. Mr. Bruder will be introduced by Raymond H. Todd, Luncheon Committee Chairman, who will preside.

The meeting will be held at 12:15 P. M. at the Viking Inn, Church Rd., Ardmore.

LM '46 Plans Holiday Reunion

Informal Dance at Cynwyd Club, Dec. 29

Oil Burner Out; Fire Place Blaze Starts \$1500 Fire

Sparks Ignite Shingles;
Haverford Township
Man Gives Alarm

Fire in the three-story home of Mr. and Mrs. Henry O. Norton, 518 Prescott Ave., Merion Park, Saturday night caused \$1500 damage to the roof and the first floor bedroom.

Mrs. Norton told Assistant Fire Marshall James Mullin that the heating apparatus in the house was not working, and in order to keep warm she started a fire in the living room fireplace. Sparks igniting the shingles on the roof caught the eye of a passing motorist, Everett M. Jones, of 6 North Concord Ave., North Aronimink, who was returning home with Mrs. Jones about 8:15 P. M. Jones ran to the house to arouse Mrs. Norton, and Mrs. Jones entered the home of a neighbor to give the fire alarm.

Mr. Norton, who had been away on a business trip, arrived home just as the Union Fire Company of Bala-Cynwyd appeared. He found Mrs. Norton and Jones carrying furniture from the lower rooms.

The roof was ablaze, and fire spread to the rooms on the third floor. The fire company worked for an hour before bringing it under control.

Estimate of the damage was made by Mullin, who said that an area of the roof twelve feet by twelve feet was completely destroyed, and that furniture, draperies and rugs in the front third floor room were damaged beyond repair.

First Winter Case Of Polio Reported In Lower Merion

A December case of infantile paralysis—the first in the memory of the local health officials—was reported this week by Lower Merion Township Health Officer, Robert J. Thomas.

The victim is a six-year-old girl in Wynnewood, who was taken ill December 1. Her case was so mild, with very slight paralysis, that it was not definitely diagnosed as polio until December 10, Thomas said. The child was not hospitalized and is recovering at her home.

The case brings Lower Merion's polio total for the year to 18. Most of the cases occurred in August and September.

Other contagious diseases reported this week in Lower Merion were: one cancer, eight chickenpox, one measles, seven mumps, one scarlet fever and three whooping cough.

Kiwanis, Jaycees Plan Joint Meeting Tuesday

Members of the Main Line Kiwanis Club and the Main Line Junior Chamber of Commerce will hold a joint meeting, Tuesday evening, at the Conestoga Mill, Bryn Mawr.

Cameron Ralston, Executive Secretary of the Pennsylvania Chiropractic Society, will speak to the assembled group on "The Five Plagues of Democracy." He will be introduced by Walter Irwin, Kiwanis President, who will preside at the meeting.

In line with a club custom, Kiwanians will entertain their wives at the last meeting of the year, Tuesday, December 28. Community sing led by Ted Parks will feature the evening's festivities.

School Directors Hold Session

Committee to Prepare 1949 Tax Rate in Feb.

The Narberth School Board held its monthly meeting Thursday at the school. Dr. Walter Steckbeck, President, presided.

The evening's business included the principal's report by W. J. Drennen, of activities at the school during the month and the payment of various school bills.

The next scheduled meeting will be held January 13. At the February session the 1949 school tax rate will be drawn up by the School Board finance committee. It will be presented to the board at the March meeting and approved in April.

Ardmore Club Has Joint Celebration Marking Christmas and 1st Birthday

Saturday was the occasion for a double celebration by members of the Ard-Wyn Club, which was organized December 18, 1947, by a group of Ardmore and Wynnewood residents 65 years of age or older.

The group, which meets regularly each month, made Saturday's session a combined Christmas and birthday party. The affair was held at the Charles C. Knox Home, 718 Sussex Rd., Wynnewood, residence of several of the club members.

After a short business meeting, slides showing scenes from her country-wide travels were exhibited by Mrs. Blanche Muthhead, of Elgin, Ill., who is visiting her daughter, Mrs. James Fitchie, in Llanerch.

Just for the Record

The Narberth Public Library got a Christmas present recently from the Borough in the form of a badly needed new floor. The green asphalt tile covering was laid during the first week of December and is in both the main library room and the reference room at the rear.

The first snowfall of the season always brings forth swarms of youngsters from six to sixty with sleds, toboggans and various types of locomotion looking for the slipperiest and longest hill in the area.

In order to make the coasting as safe and sane as possible the Borough has roped off one of the best hills in the area; Essex Ave., between Windsor and Price Aves. Red Arrow bus route has been switched to Dudley Ave. in order to insure complete safety.

Snow-Blanketed Roads Caused 5 Collisions Sunday

Two Narberth Girls
Have Narrow Escape
As Car Kills Dog

The winter's first bad storm which blanketed this area under eight inches of snow on Sunday caused five minor accidents in Lower Merion and Narberth.

Most serious of the accidents occurred at 5:15 P. M. on Wynnewood Ave. near Sabine Ave., Narberth, when E. Brooks Thomas, of 47 E. Wynnewood Rd., Merion, swerved to avoid two little girls and a dog on a sled.

According to Lower Merion police, Thomas' car skidded, struck and killed the dog and sideswiped the sled. Suzanne Connor, 12, of 116 Essex Ave., Narberth, suffered a swollen leg but walked to her home and was treated by her family physician. The other child, Mary Desmond McTigue, of 221 Wynnewood Ave., Narberth, was unhurt.

The series of accidents started at 10 A. M. when J. O. Dickinson, of 216 Shawnee Rd., Merion Golf Manor, skidded when he tried to stop on County Line Rd. at Cricket Ave., Ardmore, and collided at the intersection with a car driven by John J. Banks, Spring Ave., Ardmore, who was travelling on Cricket Ave.

Fifteen minutes later, on Jefferson St. east of Ashland Ave., West Manayunk, Anthony Acquiva, of Fairview Terrace, West Manayunk, narrowly missed a 50-foot plume that the Reading Railroad trucks. His car skidded out of control and he slid into a guard rail atop the embankment.

At 1:30 P. M., George H. Brown, of Latona St., Philadelphia, was rounding a curve on Mill Creek Rd. near Gray's Lane, Ardmore, when his car skidded across the road and into the side of an oncoming car driven by Robert C. Page, of 410 Wynnewood Rd., Merion. No one was injured.

Two cars swerving to avoid a third collided on Montgomery Ave. at 6:15 P. M. Lower Merion police said the drivers were E. Newbold Smith, of 111 St. Georges Lane, Ardmore, and Robert S. Milne, of 1614 Murdoch Rd., Philadelphia. Both jammed on their brakes when they saw a third car coming out of Bryn Mawr Ave. onto Montgomery and in so doing skidded together in the center of the highway.

Coatesville Veterans to Be Guests of Lions

Members of the Main Line Lion's Club will make their monthly trip to Coatesville Veterans' Hospital on Tuesday, December 28, to entertain patient at a Christmas party.

In charge of plans is Herbert David, assisted by Club President, Edward J. Kelly. The Lions will serve refreshments and have gifts for all the guests.

Rotary Meeting Thursday

A community sing of Christmas carols led by George Elwell will highlight the Christmas party of the Ardmore Rotary Club to be held Thursday, at the Viking Inn, Ardmore.

Twenty Years Ago in Our Town:

Paul and Folwell Scull and Gene Kuen, outstanding Lower Merion High School athletes, were guests of honor at the annual banquet of the Bala-Cynwyd Neighborhood Club.

The Narberth Presbyterian Church held its first White Christmas service.

Ten Years Ago in Our Town:

Committee Seeks New Pike Route At Valley Forge

Group Wants Highway
To Skirt Important
Historic Sites

A proposed change in the routing of the Pennsylvania Turnpike extension through the historic Valley Forge section is being studied this week by the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission, it was learned yesterday.

The proposal was suggested by the newly formed Committee for Preservation of Valley Forge Encampment Area, headed by Dr. Allen Evans, of Bryn Mawr, retired rector of Old St. Peter's Church, Philadelphia.

The committee's suggestion would move the highway approximately a mile to the south of the location chosen by the Turnpike Commission and would thereby skirt most of the important historic sites in the area.

Dr. Evans said he received a letter last Friday from Thomas J. Evans (no relation), chairman of the Turnpike Commission, promising that the committee's suggestions would be given serious consideration at the Turnpike Commission's sessions Monday and Tuesday of this week.

The original act creating Valley Forge Park authorized the acquisition of 3000 acres in the area, of which some 1800 have been acquired. The land across which the new highway will go and on which the old buildings are situated, is privately owned. But, as Dr. Evans pointed out, an Act of Assembly permits acquisition of more land for the park and it was anticipated that many historic shrines adjacent to the park would eventually lie within its extended borders.

"Routing the turnpike through this area would result in separating these historic landmarks for all time," Dr. Evans said. "It would defeat the purpose of those who cherished the dream that one day Valley Forge Park would include the whole encampment area."

In the camp site still to be made a part of the park are the buildings occupied as headquarters during the encampment by Generals Lafayette, Pulaski, Knox, Maxwell, Mifflin, Muhlenberg, Weedon, Potter, Poor, Greene, Duportail, Woodford, Lee and Davis.

The present proposed route of the turnpike would leave these isolated from the park and the park itself would pass between the main house of Lafayette's headquarters and the stables.

In a report to Dr. Evans, Thomas E. Bruder, chief engineer of Engineering Consultants, pointed out that the alternate route proposed by the Preservation Committee "avoids all but a small part of the historic area and does not strike any buildings." The alternate route also terminates at King of Prussia and would occupy more gently rolling land, several miles west of the park.

"The beauty of our plan," Dr. Evans said yesterday, "is its simplicity of grading and the fact that it is little, if any, longer than the original route, affecting only about five or six miles of the whole pike extension; in addition it will mean the preservation of these important historic sites for posterity."

He said he had invited Governor Duff to come down for a week-end and look over the territory involved so that he can see for himself the reasons for the committee's proposed route change.

Members of the Committee for Preservation include Mrs. John M. Beatty, of the Independence Hall Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution; Judge Eugene C. Bonnell, Mrs. A. Baetour Brehman, Judge Francis Shunk Brown, of the Pennsylvania Society Sons of the Revolution; Edwin G. Conk.

LOOKING BACK IN OUR TOWN

Thirty Years Ago in Our Town:

The Narberth Fire Company submitted a petition to Borough Council urging that the town take over operation of the Fire Company. The petition listed the company's yearly expense at \$781.00.

The community held its fourth annual carol service.

Carl Metzger, Jr., was honored by the Narberth Boy Scout Troop for bringing in forty new members.

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Kris Kringle Comes To Boro With Aid Of Fire Company

Santa Greeted by More Than 200
Youngsters; Business Council Members
Sponsor His Appearance Here

Santa Claus, who usually comes down a snow-topped chimney, made his appearance in Narberth last night via the hook and ladder route, as more than 200 excited and thrilled youngsters watched in awed delight.

Walter Irwin Reelected to C. of C. Post

Walter E. L. Irwin, head of the Main Line division, Philadelphia Electric Co., was reelected to his second term as president of the Main Line Chamber of Commerce last week.

Active in civic affairs on the Main Line, Irwin is a past president of the Main Line Kiwanis Club.

Also elected at last week's meeting were James P. Owens, vice president; J. Harold Watt, treasurer, and Dr. Wilbur Horn, secretary. Dr. Howard Wayne Smith was reappointed executive secretary of the organization.

Possible Changes In Township Code Being Considered

12-Mill Maximum
Real Estate Tax
Is Recommended

The Local Government Commission of the Pennsylvania State Legislature is currently studying proposed changes in the First Class Township Code, it was disclosed this week. The changes, if approved, will affect both Lower Merion and Haverford Townships.

Recommendations of the commission will be presented in the form of new bills for the consideration of the next session of the Legislature. The commission met December 9 in Harrisburg. Meeting with the members were Harry Fritschman, Haverford Township Secretary, who represented the State Association of Township Commissioners, and John Forsythe, Lower Merion Township solicitor and also counsel for the State Association of Township Commissioners.

Among the proposed changes, the News learned, are a suggestion that first class townships operate on a fiscal year starting July 1, instead of on a calendar year basis as at present, and that the maximum millage allowable for real estate taxation be 12 instead of ten mills.

The Local Government Commission also met last Friday to discuss proposed amendments to Act 481, the state law passed by the last session of the Legislature which enabled municipalities to tax anything not already taxed by the State or Federal government. Proposed additions and deletions from the act have been suggested in the light of the experiences of various municipalities.

Members of the Commission include Sen. George B. Stevenson, of Lock Haven, chairman; Rep. Howard F. Boorse, Montgomery County, first vice chairman; Rep. Felix Bentzel, York, second vice chairman; Mary E. Moore, secretary; John H. Fertig, counsel; Sen. Charles R. Mallory, Harrisburg; Sen. Louis Klein, Alliquippa; Sen. Rowland B. Mahany, Titusville; Sen. J. J. Haluska, Cambria County; Rep. Norman Wood, Peachbottom; Rep. Charles R. Reagan, Winfield; and Rep. J. Hiram Swope, Myers-town.

B-C Lions to Launch Membership Drive

Plans for a membership drive to be launched in January will be formulated at a meeting Tuesday evening of the Bala-Cynwyd Lions Club at the Cynwyd Club.

Edward Leary, as chairman of membership, will organize the drive. Joseph F. Dolan, 32, president, will preside.

Narberth Women to Gather Today For Annual Christmas Meeting

Highlighting the festivities of Christmas week for members of the Women's Community Club of Narberth will be the annual Christmas program to be presented this afternoon at 2 P. M. at the club house, Windsor Ave., Narberth.

Mrs. E. M. Farran, Program Chairman, has announced as the afternoon's activities the presentation of a dramatic portrayal reading and song of "Four Scenes in the Life of Mary, the Mother of Jesus," by Miss Ruth Wood Cornwath, who is known as an outstanding dramatist in the Main Line area, will be presented to the assembled group by Mrs. Barron.

As part of its welfare work during the holiday season the club will distribute poinsettia plants in the Narberth area. Silver offering for the project will be given at the meeting and any one who knows of any shut-ins in the area is asked to contact Mrs. Raymond A. Krug, of 31 Windsor Ave., Narberth, chairman of the Fellowship Committee, which is sponsoring the project.

Tea hostesses will be Mrs. F. Wheeler, Mrs. Walton M. Went and Mrs. H. N. Dunbar. Christmas wreaths and greens will be sold by the Conservation and Garden Committee headed by Mrs. William Barron.

